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RON KING MINISTRIES

Become Transformed by the Renewing of your Mind ....



As you Learn How to recognize ... the Voice of God.

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Experiencing God

My intent in this short booklet is to speak of what it means to experience God. In my life, I have discovered that as Christians we are apt to express our faith in such super spiritual terms that sometimes, the truth of a certain thing can be very hard to discover.
I have also discovered that while there are many Christians who agree with the word of scripture which speaks of our relationship with God in terms of very real experiences, there are also many who would disagree with such sentiment.

Recently I heard from a pastor friend who had recently returned from a conference where the speaker had expressed his view that in the 21st century, the Lord only communicates with His people through His word.

While I agree that the Lord certainly does communicate with His children through His word, there are also a great many other ways that the Lord communicates with His children. In the pages that follow my goal will be to lay out the scriptural truth that in this life, to know God, is first and foremost to experience God. Scripture declares over and again that on this side of eternity, it will continue to be so.

The value of Experience



In life, anybody who has ever applied for a job knows that one of the first things we are likely to be asked will be, how much experience do we have that qualifies us for the job we are applying for. In life, all the book learning in the world can never take the place of experience.

No matter whether we choose to be a medical doctor or a soccer player, experience will be the key to becoming recognized as one who is gifted, be that as a professional who practices law or medicine, as a carpenter or a plumber or as a sporting personality. In every case, experience will be considered irreplaceable when it comes to evaluating our ability to succeed.

As believers, coming to know God is only truly going to happen by way of personal experience. When we become Christians, more than any number of books that we might read, it is going to be our experience meeting with God in person that will enable us to become the men and women of God that we are called to be.

A Hebrew of Hebrews

There certainly remains a place for formal education for the believer. The apostle Paul described himself to be a Hebrew of Hebrews. He was schooled by Gamaliel who had been one of the most acclaimed scholars of his day,



Nevertheless, we discover that a very necessary part of his training before being released into his calling to become the great Apostle, was first to spend a full three years in the Arabian desert being tutored by the Holy Spirit. A better educated individual than the Apostle Paul would have been hard to find and yet, in order to come to know His God in a personal way, he was required to spend over 1,000 days in the backside of the desert, just he and the Spirit of God alone.

Learning to Recognize the Voice of God

There is a story in scripture that tells of a young boy by the name of Samuel who had been given by his mother into the service of the priesthood. We read that one night as he slept, he was wakened by a voice calling his name. His natural response was to run to his mentor the priest Eli, to ask what his master needed but the old priest assured the boy that he had not been calling him. Three times the boy was awakened by the voice calling his name, and after the second time the old priest realized that it must be the Lord who had been calling out to Samuel and so he instructs the boy to go back to bed telling him that if he should hear the voice again he ought to respond and say,

> "Speak Lord, your servant is listening. (1 Sam 3:9)

Samuel did not yet know the Lord. He was in training. He wasn't yet familiar with God's voice or the word of God and it's a very instructional picture that we are given that demonstrates that there will be those times when the people we minister to in life may need our help when it comes to learning how to recognize the voice of God.

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Spending time with God

In the bible, just as it was with Paul, we discover that many of the heroes of the faith spent one on one time with the Lord. Often, years of their lives were spent just them and God. David for example, spent years listening to God, talking and worshipping before Him as he watched over his sheep in the fields by night. It would have been in those times that David learned to respond to God's presence in his life by writing songs and poems to Him. It would have been through such experiences that David learned to come to know the voice of the Lord, long before ever he would be released into his kingly calling. Long before God chose to use Samuel to bridge the divide between the leadership of the prophets and the time when God would anoint kings to rule Israel, Samuel would first spent years in training under the priest Eli, where among other things he learned first hand what it meant to hear the voice of God. (1 Sam 3:1-10) We read in God's word,

> "Those who seek the Lord will find Him when they seek Him with all their heart. (Jer 29:13)

To learn to hear the voice of God will take time and the experience of one who is determined to be a seeker. To know God is to love God and to hear His voice requires that we spend time in His presence.

The Spirit of Man

Learning to hear the voice of God as David and Samuel and Jesus did cannot be taught. As the word suggests, to experience God is to learn to live in the presence of the Lord. I have spoken of the fact that sin entered the world as a result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve which resulted in their being relegated from Eden. Now they were no longer able to communicate with God as they once had. This is not just a theological truth, but it was the actual experience that all mankind would inherit as a consequence of sin.



> The Lord breathed into His nostrils the breath of Life

We read in Gen 2;7-9 that the Lord breathed the spirit of man into Adam and it was that spirit that brought Adam's flesh to life. This is a truth that is very important to understand. Creation was not simply a spiritual event. Creation was an experience through which life entered into mankind for the first time.

Created to Commune with God

In Paul's letter to the Romans we read,

> **The Spirit of the Lord bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. (Rom 8:16)**

By the words of Paul we can clearly see that the Spirit of God is not to be confused with the spirit of man. In scripture, whenever the Spirit of God is being referred to there will always be a capital 'S' to identify it. When the spirit of man is being referred to however, we are able to distinguish it because in the English language it will always be preceded by a small 's'.
Returning to the act of creation in Genesis .... it is important to understand that it was 'the spirit of man' that was breathed into Adam's flesh to bring him to life.

> **Go and wait until the Holy Spirit comes upon you. (Acts 1:8)**

It would not be until Jesus sent the Holy Spirit when he returned to heaven to be with his Father that the Holy spirit would became a part of the believers experience. From that truth we can therefore deduce that the spirit being breathed into Adam in the beginning must have been other than the Spirit of God.

Exiled From Eden

Being exiled from Eden meant that the spirit of man no longer had a role to play beyond sustaining life in its fleshly host. It's secondary role, that being to communicate with God, was no longer possible and so it is as though, from this point forward, the spirit of man within his flesh fell asleep or effectively died.



> Jesus declared that none can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. (John 3:3)

At the point where the Spirit of God enters in, it is as though in our spirit we being indeed being 'Born Again'. We are made new as though our spirit has quite literally been reborn. Once again it comes to life ready to fulfill its role as the part of us created to commune with God.

The Function of the Soul

When we talk about being "Born Again", we are often inclined to relegate the experience to the realm of the mystical. In my own life, I have discovered that being born again was not only a supernatural happening but it is was also very much a real fleshly experience. When the Lord breathed in the breath of life into man not only was the flesh brought to life but our soul came into being also. From that moment on our conscious awareness comes into being.

The Soul is the Seat of our Personality.

It is important that we understand the role of our soul. The soul is made up of our will, our intellect (that is our intelligence) and our emotions. These are the parts of our being that make up our personality and so the soul is the place where our personality resides.

Before the moment that we are born again, our spirit is sleeping and without the ability to commune with God. Until then it is our soulish nature guided by the decisions of our will that processes our thoughts, our likes and our wants so that we are able to communicate the decisions we make to our flesh so that it can carry out the choices we make.

The voice of My Soul

It is important that we understand that the only voice we hear until we are born again is the voice of our soulish nature. It is this voice inside us continually prompting us to do this or go there or try this or stay away from that that we learn to listen to. Until we become born again it is the only voice that we ever hear. (except that is for those whose spirit has been awakened and prompted to be engaged in the dark arts) Once we are born again, unlike the saints of the Old Testament, from the moment that we become believers, God communicates with believers through our spirit. Until then this is the voice that provides the direction in our lives.



The moment we are born again, all of a sudden, a second voice is awakened in our inner being and now ....

.... the battle for control of our being begins.

The Battle Within

In the book of Romans, we listen as the Apostle Paul describes the battle that is going on inside himself. This description is not something that was written by C.S. Lewis describing the fictional Narnia. Not at all, what we are reading in the letter to the Roman believers is one man's experiences as he discovers that there is a real battle raging within his being.

> "What I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do .... For the good that I will to do, I do not do, but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. (Rom 7:15,19)

Just like you and I, Paul was describing his own very personal experience. He was not reading any fantasy novel, he was describing his very own experience as he discovered that he did not have the power to do the things he knew he ought to do.

It is only as the Holy Spirit comes in to join with our spirit that we discover we have been empowered with the means to win the battle. As our spirit begins to communicate with God's Spirit it begins to relay the thoughts of God to our soul. Now the soul is faced with the decision to submit or to continue to try to enforce its own will over our spirit.

Power From On High

> Go and wait until the Holy spirit comes upon you in Power (Acts 1;8)



It is as though the disciples are being instructed to receive a second infusion of Spirit infilling. When we are saved we are all filled with the spirit of God, but scripture shows that an additional infusion is required to equip us for what lies ahead. To this point our soulish nature has had it all its own way. It could choose the things of the world to satisfy our fleshly desires. It could choose to have illicit sex, steal money, use drugs and chase after power and wealth. It has learned that it can chase after all the things of this world at will, but now, all of a sudden, it begins to hear there may be another way, a better way. When the Apostle Paul was speaking of a battle inside, too often we have imagined he was speaking in theological terms that only trained men of God could properly understand. The truth of the matter is that Paul's battle is a battle that is taking place in the life of all who who ever choose to become a follower of Jesus.

Transformed ... by the Renewing of Our Minds

As our spirit begins to hear from God, it begins to call upon our soulish nature to submit to our spirit's leading telling it that there is another way. Our spirit begins to ask our soul to listen to this new voice that is in perfect union with the Spirit of God, 'S'. Where before we were only aware of one voice, now there are two voices, dueling for attention, wanting to be heard.

Our Minds are being Renewed



We began in the book of Romans where we discovered that the Spirit of God ministers to the spirit of man so that we can understand that we have been created to be God's children. As we continue to read, Paul makes the declaration that the 'Born Again' experience is designed to renew not just our spirit but also our soul, including our minds so that we can begin to know and understand the will of God.

Transformed by the renewing of our minds.

What a revelation ... what a gift ! God has provided us with a way to discover his will for our lives. Paul continues,

> We need no longer be conformed to the patterns of this world, instead, we are to be transformed, by the renewing of our minds ... so that we can prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

We discover that the purpose of the Spirit of God coming to live in us has been to join with our spirit, so that directed by God's Spirit we can begin to discover the good and perfect will of God for our lives. Our spirit is made perfect now that it is joined with the Spirit of God. It is the only part of us that is made perfect for we know that our bodies will be replaced with a new body when we go to be with the Lord. Our souls also, when we go to be with the Lord will also be made perfect but until then, we, continue in our fallen nature but now, we are being renewed. The spirit of God in us continues to encourage our soul to submit to our spirit man so that we are becoming transformed in our thinking and renewed in our minds.

Life as a new Experience

As we learn to adjust to the leading of the spirit in us, we discover, just as Paul declared,

> **We are no longer to conform to the pattern of this world. (Romans 12:2)**

The great apostle is encouraging the believers to discover a better way. To this point in our human experience the only truth revealed to my soulish nature has been the truth discovered by my intellect as I have engaged with the world and lived life according to the patterns that the world has provided. Now with my spirit voice reborn, my soul is confronted with a better way that leads to transformation.

> **Who will deliver me from this body of death, Paul opined. I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Rom 7:25)**

By sending us the Spirit of God to live in us, Jesus provided us with the way to no longer have to conform to the patterns of this world. Finally we have been given the means by way of the Spirit living in us to have our soulish nature transformed and our minds renewed. What a gift the Lord has provided and we are able to experience the truth of it in the days of lives. .

A Picture is Worth a Thousand words



“ Once I was Blind but Now I see (John 9:25)

As we learn to inform our minds that another way of life is possible, our spirit begins to pave the way for the soul to choose to submit to the will of our spirit so that new patterns for living can begin to form. The battle that Paul referred to begins to slow. What has been discussed in these pages has been the reality of God’s provision for his people. It is a truth never intended to remain hidden but to be understood.

My intention has been to try to paint a picture to help us move into the undiscovered country. Sometimes it is true that a picture may indeed be worth a thousand words.

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A people with a calling

As Pastors and leaders,
surely our role must be just
as it was for John the Baptist ....

... To Make Ready a People, Prepared, for the Lord

> Making ready a people prepared for the Lord. (Luke 1:17)

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Ron King Ministries is an International Christian Ministry based on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. Our ministry purpose is to disciple believers to do their own works of ministry so that as they do, together, we will continue to build up the body of Christ.

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